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TL4T NEWSLETTER

TECHNOLOGY LESSONS 4 TEACHERS

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6 Great MUSIC Creation Tools: Part 2

FONT DE MUSIC, UJAM, & BEATLAB



elementary students.

font de music (rightwork.jp/fontdemusic) – Type in a message, choose the genre of music, adjust the color, font, & size of the letters to create a bouncing musical performance. Simple to share with a unique URL to pass it along. Another great site for



tempo of your song, to remix a song to include your tune.

UJAM (www.ujam.com) – This site can make anyone a great singer. You sing or play an instrument while recording into UJAM. When you are done, you can alter the sound quality of your voice, turn your voice into other sounds, adjust the



the notes are from.

beatlab (www.beatlab.com) – Super easy site to use. You are provided a grid with selected sounds. Just click on the dots in the grid to start playing a note. You can adjust the tempo, add more sounds, change the sounds provided through their catalog, or upload your own. You can also change the genre that

all learners

KEYBOARDING & MODULES

early childhood



Intro to Keyboarding Skills – Try out these websites for your students who are just learning about a computer/mouse/keyboard.

There are simple games that react to your student's touch anywhere on the keyboard, up to point & click with the mouse activities. Various skill levels.

- **Fisher-Price Online Games** (www.fisher-price.com) – for toddlers through pre-k
- **Funschool** (funschool.kaboose.com) – has a preschool tab at the top
- **The Kidz Page** (www.thekidzpage.com) – pre-k through primary
- **Funbrain** (www.funbrain.com) – pre-k through primary

SPED

Autism Internet Modules

(www.ocali.org) – This is the Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence. Once you go to the homepage, look below the big slideshow & you will see a square that says “Autism Internet Modules”. You have to create a free account to access the modules, but there are dozens to choose from & in all areas, pre-k through adult. These modules would be great for learning about new types of programming for autistic students, or for teaching others on your team more about programming that you already use.



activinspire

USER DEFINE BUTTONS

You can create your own shortcuts & add them to your Toolbox.

1. Go to **Edit > Profiles > User defined buttons.**
2. Click on **Add...**
3. Select **Program/File**
4. Either type in the website (starting with an http://) or find your file
5. Type the name you want to name it
6. Click on **Done**



Use it for documents & websites to bring them up quickly & easily during a lesson. You can easily drag & drop pieces of a flipchart (like objects – transparent background covers, clipart) that you use often. Just be sure to have your Toolbox docked either on the right or left side of the screen.





resources for letter writing

LETTERS OF NOTE & LETTRS

The ability to compose & execute a well-written letter is often referred to as an “art”, an art that many worry is being lost in this age of technology. Spur-of-the-moment emails, quick Facebook posts, 140-character tweets, & brusque text messages . . . yes, we are writing a lot, but the act of thoughtfully composing & carefully executing written communication happens rarely.

Engaging in the process of letter writing requires the letter writer to consider their audience & purpose for communication, organize their correspondence in a coherent & meaningful way, & polish a final version to be sent.

Several resources offer exciting ways to encourage students to practice the art of letter writing, Letters of Note & lettrs.

Letters of Note (www.lettersofnote.com) – is a blog featuring “fascinating letters, postcards, telegrams, faxes & memos”, often to/from well-known individuals, but sometimes offering tidbits from the more obscure. A brief context of the letter, recipient & writer is given, as well as a photograph, & when



possible the scanned image of the letter is provided. These daily posts offer several opportunities for educators as students explore examples of written correspondence, are motivated to find out more about the correspondents &/or the events referred to.



lettrs (lettrs.com) – if you want to enhance the art of letter writing and give students a more authentic platform then consider lettrs. This new website allows writers to amplify the visual quality of their letters through

font choice (typewriter, handwritten print or script), they can then choose several options for sharing their letters, & they can archive current letters as well as past by scanning actual handwritten correspondence. While an account is required, younger students could work from a single teacher account & older students can use their Gaggles account to register; the letters account only identifies you by a single name & your zip code.

Using these resources students could compose

- Letters of appreciation to past teachers,
- Personal letters to family members,
- Fan mail to a favorite author,
- Fictional letter to a historical figure,
- A letter in Spanish or French to a real or fictional pen pal.



Teacher Feature • Dan Oatman & Google Drive

The district has another new online software tool available to students and staff this year – Google Docs/Drive! The core benefits of Google Drive are that users can access their documents from any web-connected device, eliminating the need for flashdrives & emailed copies. By accessing the same document from school, home, or via the app on smartphone or tablet you always have the most up-to-date version. An added benefit is the auto-save feature, which assures you are little, if any, work when a network error occurs. The last note-worthy feature is the ability to share documents with other users so that each can make their own changes to a single document or presentation.

Dan Oatman, PHS social studies teacher, has embraced Google Drive & its host of features in his History & Films and AP Gov't & Politics courses;

What really got me interested is the real time sharing of work, especially for Films & History class where Google Drive makes it easier for the students to collaborate, & also for me to check to see if they are working on their presentation. Google Drive makes it easier for the students to work together, without having to sit together. For me, it makes it easier to keep track of the students, & easier for me to grade since I can always get online.

Once the students see the light of what Google Drive can do they love it. They like the immediate sharing, & they also like to problem solve to help each other out as far as how to set up a document, presentation, etc. They also like the fact that when they submit, they can see my response back to them, & respond in kind if I have a question for them.

Other ways Dan is using Google Drive:

- Documents for students to take/submit quizzes & worksheets
- Forms as a dropbox for students to submit links to their completed quizzes & responses
- “Share” feature to offer feedback
- To collaborate with other AP instructors in designing lessons

Thanks to Dan for sharing the first part of his Google Drive journey, we will check back in the spring to see where they are at!

SITES FOR MAP PRACTICE



- **MAP Math** (<http://bit.ly/RgNhWk>)
- **MAP Reading** (<http://bit.ly/TUiKuJ>)

Teacher, parent, & student resources to improve math & reading scores on MAP assessments.

IPOD APPS

IWRITEWORDS, earth science,
YALSA'S TEEN BOOK FINDER

ELEMENTARY



iWriteWords – A nifty app that teaches kids how to write the capital & lowercase letters of the alphabet, numbers up to 20, & simple words. Since the process of teaching kids to write uses a follow-the-numbered-dots approach, it helps if kids already know how to count & read numbers up to 10 in order to play this game.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Language Central for Science Earth Science Edition – A wonderful free app that crosses over many different grade levels & will engage students, letting them study key science vocabulary terms in a fun & unique way. Jim Olsen's 8th grade science kids are using it for practice for the vocabulary used in the NESa science tests.

HIGH SCHOOL



YALSA's Teen Book Finder – This awesome app comes from the Young Adult Services Association (YALSA), those folks who promote young adult reading through high interest reading lists, annual national book awards, Teen Read Week & Teen Tech Week. This simple, yet robust, visuals of this app will appeal to teens as they are able to quickly browse for books they might like to read. Once teens' find a book they might like to read they can Find It! at the nearest library (using WorldCat) &/or add it to a personalized booklist of Favorites. Search by author, title, award/list year, genre, by award, & by booklist.

This is one I recommend for high school students to add to their personal smartphones, so they can use all of the features and it's always handy! It is currently available only on iOS, but is listed as coming to Android in late 2012. Thanks to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for underwriting the funding.

WEBSITES 2 CHECK OUT

PRESCHOOL



PEEP & the Big Wide World

(peepandthebigwideworld.com)

– A nice resource for PreK & early elementary school students. This site offers a great collection of online games, videos, & offline activities designed to help students learn & practice skills in math & science.

SCIENCE



ElectroCity

(www.electrocity.co.nz) –

Think of this as a mini *Sim City* game. The students become mayor of a town & have to manage the consumption & production of electricity for the town. Students can also either protect natural resources or use them for energy. A fun, quick game at each turn the student takes.

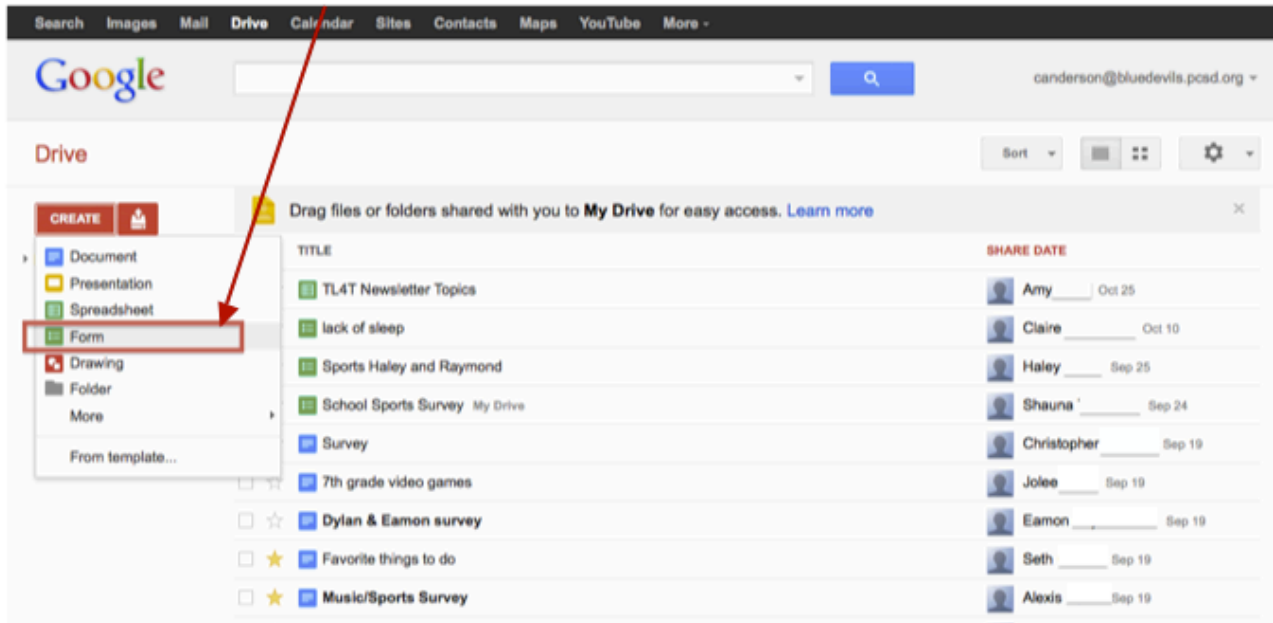
CREATING SURVEYS IN GOOGLE DOCS

Please view the attached sheets on page 7 & 8 for guidelines & images for creating surveys in Google Docs. The steps are down below.

1. Log into Google Drive & Select FORM.
2. It is important to remember,
 - a. Remove the checkmark at the top of the page & anyone that has the link to the survey's webpage can take it.
 - b. If the checkmark is left there, users have to sign in to their Google account to take the survey.
3. To add a question, click the ADD ITEM at the top left of the page.
4. Type in the name of the survey & any information you want the user to know.
5. Type the questions for the surveys.
 - a. Choose from Text, Paragraph Text, Multiple Choice, Checkboxes, Choose from a list, Score, & Grid.
6. Results will go into your Google Drive menu. The results open in a spreadsheet form.
7. To view the answers to the survey in as a summary, go to FORM > SHOW SUMMARY OF RESPONSES.
8. To edit the survey, go to FORM > EDIT FORM.
9. To view the form online, go to FORM > GO TO LIVE FORM.

CREATING SURVEYS IN GOOGLE DOCS ATTACHMENT

Log into Google Drive
Select FORM



Add a new question

IMPORTANT!

*Remove the checkmark and anyone that has the link to the survey's webpage can take it.
*If the checkmark is left there, users have to sign in to their Google account to take the survey.
I removed the checkmark, it was easier for our students to access the surveys.

The screenshot shows the Google Forms creation interface. At the top, there's a blue header bar with the text 'Add item' and 'Theme: Plain'. Below this, there are several checkboxes: 'Allow users to edit responses. What's this?', 'Require Plattsmouth Community Schools sign-in to view this form.', and 'Automatically collect respondent's Plattsmouth Community Schools username.' The 'Require Plattsmouth Community Schools sign-in to view this form.' checkbox is checked. Below the checkboxes, there's a text input field labeled 'Untitled form' with the placeholder text 'Type a survey name'. Below this, there's a larger text input field with the placeholder text 'You can include any text or info that will help people fill this out.' Below this, there's a section for adding a new question. It has a 'Question Title' input field with the placeholder text 'type your question here' and the label 'Type the questions for the survey'. Below the 'Question Title' input field, there's a 'Question Type' dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Text', 'Paragraph text', 'Multiple choice', 'Checkboxes', 'Choose from a list', 'Scale', and 'Grid'. The 'Text' option is selected. Below the 'Question Type' dropdown menu, there's a 'Sample Question 2' input field. A red arrow points from the text 'Add a new question' to the 'Add item' button. Another red arrow points from the text 'Choose the kind of question' to the 'Question Type' dropdown menu.

Search Images Mail Drive Calendar Sites Contacts Maps YouTube More -

Google

Results will go into your Google Drive menu.
The results open in a spreadsheet form.

Drive

CREATE

My Drive

Shared with me

Starred

Recent

More

Drag files or folders shared with you to My Drive for easy access. [Learn more](#)

TITLE SHARE DATE

TL4T Newsletter Topics Amy K

lack of sleep Google Form Results Claire

Sports Haley and Raymond Haley

School Sports Survey My Drive Shaur

Survey Christ

7th grade video games Jolee

Dylan & Eamon survey Eamon

lack of sleep

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools

Form (58) Help All changes saved in Drive

Edit form

Send form

Go to live form

Embed form in a webpage...

Show summary of responses

Accepting responses

Delete form

Online view

| Timestamp | What is the reason for your lack of sleep? | Do you have anything you are excited about? | Do you have problems falling asleep or do you text and stay up? | How does staying up affect your school life? | Do you get bad grades because you stay up? | Have you ever fallen asleep in class? |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 9/24/2012 7:03:18 | 2.sports | no | no | hard to stay focused | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:03:57 | 3.homework | no | no | no | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:04:43 | 2.sports | no | sometimes | drowsiness | no | yes |
| 9/24/2012 7:05:58 | 4.other | sometimes | no | it will make me tired | sometimes | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:07:01 | 2.sports | no | yes | not much | sometimes | yes |
| 9/24/2012 7:07:31 | 2.sports | no | no | sometimes | sometimes | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:09:02 | 3.homework | sometimes | no | it makes it hard to stay awake in class sometimes. | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:09:03 | 4.other | no | no | Not much of a difference | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:09:16 | 4.other | sometimes | no | yess | no | yes |
| 9/24/2012 7:10:11 | 3.homework | no | no | I'm not as focused | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:12:09 | 4.other | no | yes | i want to sleep | no | yes |
| 9/24/2012 7:13:08 | 4.other | no | no | it doesn't affect my school life | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:13:23 | 4.other | no | no | it doesn't affect my school life | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:14:45 | 4.other | no | no | you cant think as good because your brain did not get the rest it nees | no | no |
| 9/24/2012 7:14:57 | 4.other | no | no | makes me grumpy | no | no |